



**Frederick County
Government
Frederick, Maryland**

News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:
June 8, 2017

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Executive Gardner Announces Expansion of New Horizons Frederick to Help Teenage Students Experiencing Homelessness

FREDERICK, MD – County Executive Jan Gardner today announced the expansion of the New Horizons Frederick six-week program that provides academic training and part-time employment to Frederick County Public Schools students who are experiencing homelessness. As of May 31, a record 822 FCPS students faced the challenges of homelessness during the school year.

New Horizons Frederick is coordinated through the Student Homelessness Initiative Partnership, known as SHIP of Frederick County. Frederick County Workforce Services coordinates participants' job placement through the Youth Works program. Last year's pilot project served students from Gov. Thomas Johnson High School. This year, the program has expanded to include students from Tuscarora High School and Frederick High School. The expansion is funded, in part, by a \$35,000 Community Partnership Grant from Frederick County.

"There are many outstanding organizations that are making a difference in the lives of those who are less fortunate or who are dealing with real life challenges such as not having a safe place to call home," commented Executive Gardner "The New Horizons Frederick Program has given hope and changed the lives of many teenagers. I'm pleased that students from more schools will benefit from New Horizons this summer."

The objective of the program is to provide support and resources to help these students remain on track to graduate on time. With the high school graduation rate for homeless FCPS students at approximately 69 percent compared to almost 96 percent for the general population within FCPS, it is critical that the community help these youth so that their high school education is completed. High school graduation is an important and critical determinant of a future successful and prosperous life.

SHIP Founder Ed Hinde said, "With the support of many individuals and our partners, it's our intention to work to break the cycle of poverty for these students. These youth deserve the chance to succeed. We really are a community that cares."

Funders for New Horizons include Frederick County Government, Rotary Club of Carroll Creek, Frederick County Public Schools, The Community Foundation of Frederick County, and numerous private individuals in Frederick County who have provided items such as laptops and scholarships for the students to participate in the program.

For more information about New Horizons, contact SHIP of Frederick at 240-415-8971 or via e-mail at info@ShipFrederick.com.

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